

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 DLOS-07 COA-02 DRC-01

/144 W

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R 311017Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3968

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 6461

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP, ID

SUBJECT: MARCOS-SUHARTO MEETING

REF: MANILA 6401

BEGIN SUMMARY: LOCAL PRESS ACCOUNTS OF MARCOS-SUHARTO
SUMMIT MEETING EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE INTRA-REGIONAL
SOLUTIONS TO CONFLICTS BETWEEN ASEAN STATES AND DETAILED MARCOS
EXPLANATIONS TO SUHARTO OF PLANNED GOP PROGRAMS FOR
FILIPINO MUSLIMS. GOP OBJECTIVES AT MEETING APPEAR
TO HAVE BEEN TO LINE UP GOI SUPPORT FOR GOP INTERESTS
AT FORTHCOMING ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE.
AND TO ATTEMPT PREPARE DISCUSSIONS WITH GOM WITH VIEW
TO EASING FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES. WHILE
WE CANNOT YET ASSESS SUCCESS GOP MAY HAVE HAD, THERE
ARE INDICATIONS THAT RESULTS MAY HAVE BEEN LESS THAN
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DESIRED. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT MARCOS RETURNED MAY 30 FROM FIRST TRIP OUTSIDE PHILIPPINES SINCE 1969 AFTER TWO-DAY SUMMIT MEETING WITH INDONESIAN PRESIDENT SUHARTO IN MENADO, NORTH SULAWESI. MARCOS SPENT NIGHT IN DAVAO AND ARRIVED IN MANILA MAY 31. WE AS YET HAVE NO PRIVATE OFFICIAL COMMENT ON TRIP. FOLLOWING BASED ON PRESS ACCOUNTS IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS AND SHORT PRESS CONFERENCE BY MARCOS ON MAY 31 IN MANILA.

2. MANILA PRESS DOES NOT CARRY TEXT OF GOI OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON MEETING (FBIS BANGKOK 301455Z MAY 74). FOLLOWING ARE PRINCIPAL POINTS MADE IN LOCAL PRESS ACCOUNTS:

A. MARCOS AND SUHARTO AGREED THAT SOURCES OF CONFLICT WITHIN ASEAN REGION SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO BE EXPLOITED BY FORCES OUTSIDE REGION;

B. THEY ALSO AGREED THAT ASEAN STATES SHOULD FURTHER STRENGTHEN EXISTING TIES;

C. MARCOS EMPHASIZED NEED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCEDURES FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF INTRA-REGIONAL DISPUTES;

D. MARCOS BRIEFED SUHARTO IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL ON GOP PROGRAMS FOR FILIPINO MUSLIM COMMUNITY;

E. MARCOS DISCUSSED WITH SUHARTO IDEA OF INDUSTRIAL COMPLEMENTATION AMONG ASEAN COUNTRIES AND PROPOSED PHIL-INDON TECHNICAL STUDIES ON CERTAIN PROJECTS;

F. MARCOS REQUESTED SYMPATHETIC GOI TREATMENT OF FILIPINO WORKERS EMPLOYED IN INDONESIA;

G. MARCOS AND SUHARTO EXPRESSED THEIR COMMON SUPPORT FOR ARCHIPELAGO DOCTRINE AND AGREED TO TAKE COMMON POSITION AT LOS CONFERENCE (SEE REFTEL).

3. IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE AT NICHOLS AIR BASE, MARCOS:

A. STRESSED SEVERAL TIMES THAT ASEAN COUNTRIES ARE CAPABLE OF SOLVING CONFLICTS BETWEEN MEMBER STATES WITHOUT IMPOSING ON COUNTRIES OUTSIDE REGION;

B. SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT JUNE ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN KUALA
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LUMPUR. "THAT IS UP TO CONFERENCE TO DECIDE;"

C. SAID HE AND SUHARTO HAD DISCUSSED MUSLIM ISSUE ONLY IN PASSING;

D. SAID NO DECISION WAS MADE ON MARCOS-RAZAK MEETING. "THAT IS LEFT TO THE PRESIDENT OF INDONESIA AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA. IT IS SOMETHING THAT WILL BE TAKEN UP LATER;"

E. DECLINED TO IDENTIFY FOREIGN COUNTRIES

SUPPLYING WEAPONS TO FILIPINO REBELS BUT SAID GOP AWARE THAT WEAPONS HAD ARRIVED FROM ABROAD IN BOTH SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN PARTS OF PHILIPPINES;

F. FACT HE WAS ABLE TO LEAVE COUNTRY IN HANDS OF CABINET SUGGESTIVE OF FACT COUNTRY COULD BE RUN WITHOUT MARCOS.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NOT DIRECTLY STATED IN OFFICIAL GOP OR GOI PRESS ACCOUNTS, TALKS OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO ATTEMPT PREPARE GROUND FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH GOM WITH VIEW TO EASING FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES. INTERIM PURPOSE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN TO LINE UP GOI SUPPORT FOR GOP INTERESTS IN FORTHCOMING ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE (IFMC) IN KUALA LUMPUR.

5. MEETING AND ATTENDANT PUBLICITY DID AFFORD OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE TO DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN AUDIENCES PROMISED GOP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR FILIPINO MUSLIMS AND CLOSE RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA ON WHICH GOP DEPENDING AT IFMC. IN THIS CONNECTION, GOP EMPHASIS ON ASEAN SUGGESTS IT BANKED HEAVILY ON CONCEPT OF ASEAN UNITY AS MEANS OF APPEALING TO GOI.

6. AT THIS POINT, IT IMPOSSIBLE TELL EXTENT TO WHICH MARCOS SUCCEEDED WITH SUHARTO IN ACHIEVING GOP OBJECTIVES. VAGUENESS OF MARCOS AT PRESS CONFERENCE AND HIS EXTREME HESITANCE IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS MAY INDICATE DISAPPOINTMENT AT RESULTS. FACT THAT TWO COUNTRIES ISSUED SEPARATE PRESS STATEMENTS TENDS REINFORCE THIS PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION.
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